



Opening Doors Newsletter

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A publication to promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities within National Service programs.
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Purpose of the Disability Grant

2010 Disability Grant funds provide State Commissions the ability to support the efforts of increasing the participation of individuals with disabilities within AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve and Senior Corps programs. A portion of funds may be used for the following: to support training to educate program staff as to how they can increase the recruitment of individuals with disabilities, to provide reasonable accommodations, purchase auxiliary aid equipment or fund development of materials in alternate formats. Please visit [Serve Montana](#), click on Resources and Opening Doors to access information regarding an invaluable pool of potential service members. Many of the inclusion materials within the Technical Assistance link have been revised so please ensure your program is using the most current information available.

Surveys to Determine Members with a Disability

This year the inclusion survey tool, Survey to Determine National Service Members with a Disability, has been modified to include our National Service partners, Learn and Serve and Senior Corps. A request will go out to all programs asking service members to complete the survey in order to ascertain the disclosure of a disability, if a request for an accommodation was made by the member and the effectiveness of requested accommodation. The Governor's Office of Community Service's Disability Coordinator provides guidance for administering the survey and deadlines when surveys must be completed and returned to the office. Data will be compiled to record results and report to our Commissioners, Programs and the Corporation for National and Community Service on the number of members serving in Montana, who've disclosed a disability. These documents can be found at the [Serve Montana](#) webpage. It is essential that Montana illustrates a commitment to determining members serving for future grant funding consideration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey tool please contact Kathy Bean, 406-444-5547, or kbean@mt.gov.

"It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test." Lou Holtz